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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRUCE R. RENDON
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 8, 2011

Mr. Chairman, esteemed colleagues:

Thank you for this opportunity to address the committee today on this very important issue.

As a business owner, I understand the need to revisit management plans and make adjustments as needed. As an outdoor enthusiast, I can appreciate an individual's desire for quiet recreation in what is one of our state's most beautiful, pristine forests. We are blessed to have such a natural treasure as the Huron-Manistee National Forest right here in Michigan.

My father taught me to hunt on this very parcel of land we are discussing today. He taught me to sit quietly, listen and learn from nature, treat it gently and leave no sign of having been there, so that others could enjoy its beauty. He was a good steward of the earth and a great teacher. Many of my constituents have shared similar stories with me as well, and have voiced their concerns on this matter.

Hunting and snowmobiling are part of our state's outdoor heritage and all Michigan residents should be able to continue utilizing these lands as the management plan for the forest currently allows. Any change to the current plan not only threatens the right to share that tradition with future generations, but sets a dangerous precedent for limiting the public's ability to access other public lands across the state.

In addition, hunting and snowmobiling play a vital role in supporting Northern Michigan's local economy. Eliminating access to local trails and hunting lands would have a harmful economic effect on area businesses that rely heavily on the patronage of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts, both within and out of state. I have also heard from constituents whose livelihoods would be decimated should access to the forest be altered in any way.

I ask that the committee vote in support of House Concurrent Resolution 02 and House Resolution 017, both of which oppose the imposition of a ban of firearm hunting and snowmobiling in certain areas of the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

I thank you for your time, consideration and dedication to preserving Michigan's outdoor heritage.

Respectfully in Service,

Bruce R. Rendon
State Representative, 103rd District



Polar bear dip

HOUGHTON LAKE - Christine Carter took this photo of the Polar Bear Dip at Houghton Lake's Dip Town this weekend.

Bill opposing firearm ban introduced

ROSCOMMON COUNTY - State Rep. Bruce Rendon today introduced legislation in the Michigan House opposing any ban of firearm hunting and snowmobiling in the Huron-Manistee National Forest.

The U.S. Forest Service is currently evaluating its forest management plans and is considering banning snowmobiling and hunting on thousands of acres within Michigan forests.

Rendon introduced House Concurrent Resolution 2 to call on the federal agency to not ban usage of the Huron-Manistee National Forest because it could set a precedent for limiting people's right to hunt and enjoy access to other public lands.

"Hunting and snowmobiling are part of our state's outdoor heritage," said Rendon, R-Lake City. "Michigan residents should be able to continue utilizing these lands as originally intended. Any change threatens the right to share that tradition with future generations, something that our state cannot afford to have taken away."

Rendon added that hunting and snowmobiling play an important role in supporting Northern Michigan's local businesses. Eliminating access to local trails and hunting lands would have a harmful economic effect on both state and local economies.

The State of Michigan brings in \$28 million in annual revenue from in-state and out-of-state hunters alone.

Eliminating recreational opportunities will reduce the revenue Michigan relies on. The U.S. Forest Service is hosting public meetings throughout the state on the forest management plan and the proposed ban.

"I strongly encourage area residents and business owners to attend the forums and defend their rights," Rendon said.

The schedule of public hearings includes:

Monday, Jan. 31

• Hilton Inn Express of Birch Run, 12150 Dixie Highway in Birch Run, from 4 to 8 p.m.

• Huron Shore Ranger Station, 5761 North Skeel Road in Oscoda, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

• Mid-Ranger Station, 107 McKinley Road in Mio, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 2

• Days Inn of Manistee, 1462 U.S.-31 South of Manistee, from 4 to 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 3

• Plainfield Township Hall, 885 Eighth St. in Baldwin, from 4 to 7 p.m.

People unable to attend the hearings can submit comments by mail to Forest Planning

Huron-Manistee National Forests, 1755 S. Mitchell St., Oscoda, MI 49867 or faxed to

617-775-8551. Comments also can be sent by email to

forestplanning@huronmanistee.fs.fed.us. Forest Plan 00-03 is the current state

Feb 4, 2011

Dear Rep. Rendon,

Thank you for talking with us at the Republican Convention.

We attended a Forest Service hearing in Marquette this week.

Enclosed are copies of our comments we are sending to the Forest Service.

We appreciate all your efforts to stop this travesty and infringement of our rights, as well as the deleterious economic impact on the people of Northern Michigan.

Sincerely,
Yours for a free America,

Rep. Bruce Rendon - Forest Plan SEIS

From:

To: <comments-eastern-huron-manistee@fs.fed.us>

Date: 2/4/2011 9:56 AM

Subject: Forest Plan SEIS

CC: <senator@stabenow.senate.gov>, <BruceRendon@house.mi.gov>

To Whom it may concern,

It is with great concern that I write this comment regarding the closure or amending of The Huron-Manistee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. For generations these lands have been hunted and recreated upon, now a special interest group being represented by a down state attorney feels that it is time to end public hunting and snowmobiling in certain parts of "OUR" forest. As I drive the roads of Iosco and Alcona counties, I find more and more two tracks being blocked off, with guard rails being installed to "keep motorized vehicles out." The use of such lands should not be restricted as a result of an omission within the original plan. Every day more and more rights of the American people are being taken away, my right to walk with my children through the Huron National Forest carrying a firearm should not be infringed upon. It has been practiced by generations before me and hopefully for future generation to come. The people of this great state have been hurt enough by the economic down turn we have all felt. The prohibiting of hunting, and snowmobiling within these areas will only lead to fewer dollars being spent within Northeast Mi.